
ETHNIC CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

Spring 2017 POLS 4220 (CI)

Course Syllabus

Last updated on Monday 9th January, 2017

Information

- Professor: Dr. Pechenkina
- Class meeting: T & Th 1:30PM-2:45PM in HPER 118
- Office: 328D Old Main
- Email: anna.pechenkina@usu.edu
This is my primary method of communication. I will respond to emails as fast as I can and no later than 24 hrs on weekdays and 48 hrs on weekends.
- Office Hours: Thursdays at 10:00AM-12:00PM and by appointment. To make an appointment outside the office hours, please see me after class or send me an email.
- Office Phone: 435.797.7318
Please do not leave voice mail, send me an email instead.

Description

What is the relationship between group identity and conflict? Why do people belong to identity-based groups, e.g., ethnic groups and nations? What makes these groups the basis of political loyalty? Could ethnic differences be sources of conflict, if ethnic groups used to live in peace before the war occurred? What can be done to resolve and prevent such conflict? We will answer these and other questions in the Ethnic Conflict course by analyzing recent arguments and data on political violence and ethnicity. The course will first examine the definitions and origins of ethnicity and nationalism. Then, we will focus on the explanations for why ethnic and nationalist violence occurs. The final segment surveys various strategies to resolve and prevent ethnic and nationalist conflict.

Course objectives

1. To gain factual knowledge about terminology, classifications, methods, and trends in the field of ethnicity and conflict.
2. To learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas and arguments expressed by scholars of ethnicity and conflict.
3. To further develop skill in expressing oneself verbally or in writing.

Readings

All readings are available through [USU Canvas](#).

Course website

Course information, syllabus, assignments, and grades are available at [USU Canvas](#).

Earning Grades

Exams (50%): There will be two (2) non-cumulative exams and one (1) cumulative exam, based on the assigned readings and class material. All exams are closed-book and in-class. If you wish to discuss your exam, please schedule a meeting with me no later than five (5) business days after grades have been posted.

Short Papers (30%): Each student will write two (2) short papers (≈ 5 pages long). Details TBA. If you wish to discuss your paper, please schedule a meeting with me no later than five (5) business days after grades have been posted. In addition, we will engage in peer review, which is the best way to learn how to edit your own work.

Group Presentation (10%): Each student will contribute to one group presentation during the Applications section of the course (April 11-20). Each presentation will cover one case study by providing historical background and applying political science research findings to the case. Individual grades will be based on the quality of the presentation, self-evaluation, and your teammates' evaluations. More details will be distributed after spring break.

One-minute Papers (5%): One-minute papers (OMPs) are thought papers or activities based on assigned readings or lecture material, and can be administered at any time during the class period, on random days throughout the semester. Some of the one-minute paper assignments will test your knowledge of the assigned readings, others will ask you to contrast various argument, or form an opinion on a contested issue. The papers must demonstrate thoughtful responses to the question.

Each OMP is worth 5 points. You may receive either full (5 points) or partial (2.5 points) or no credit (0 points) for your answer.

Over the semester, 11 OMPs will be administered at random; a total of 10 OMPs are required for your grade. You will not be penalized for not completing the remaining paper, but completing all 11 one-minute papers will provide extra credit (with a maximum of 5 extra credit points).

In-class participation (5%): The semester participation grade will be an average of all participation grades accumulated over the semester.

- A: attends class regularly and always contributes to the discussion by bringing up relevant questions and providing thoughtful commentary.
- B: attends class regularly and frequently contributes.
- C: attends class regularly and sometimes contributes.
- D: attends class regularly but never contributes.

To prepare for one-minute papers and class participation, you will need to complete the assigned readings before each class meeting. To comprehend the readings better, come to class prepared to share your answers to these questions regarding each reading:

- What is the research question?
- What is the author’s argument?
- What is the author’s evidence?
- Strong/weak points of the paper?

Reviews: We will hold regular review sessions, during which students will have a unique opportunity to work on exam-like problems in groups and receive instant feedback from the professor. While these sessions are not graded, they constitute an important component of the course. We will discuss further details on group formation, group work, and the format of review guides before the first review session.

Evaluation

Assignment:	Max Points:	Your Points:	Percent of Grade:
Exam 1	150	-----	15%
Exam 2	150	-----	15%
Exam 3	200	-----	20%
Short paper 1 and peer review 1	150	-----	15%
Short paper 2	150	-----	15%
Group presentation	100	-----	10%
One-Minute papers	55	-----	5%
In-class participation	50	-----	5%
Total	1,000		100%

Academic Conduct

An academic integrity violation (e.g., cheating, falsification, or plagiarism) will result in a failing grade for the assignment. If another instance of violation occurs, it will result in a failing grade for the course. Below is an excerpt from the [USU Student Code of Conduct](#) with definitions of related terms, consult the full text for additional information.

Cheating:

1. using or attempting to use or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity, including working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done individually;
2. depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
3. substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;

Grades

Grades:	Percent:
A	93 - 100%
A-	90 - 92.99%
B+	87 - 89.99%
B	83 - 86.99%
B-	80 - 82.99%
C+	77 - 79.99%
C	73 - 76.99%
C-	70 - 72.99%
D+	67 - 69.99%
D	63 - 66.99%
D-	60 - 62.99%
F	59.9% and below

4. acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
5. continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
6. submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or
7. engaging in any form of research fraud.

Falsification: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

Plagiarism: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

Disability

If you wish to request an accommodation due to a documented disability, please visit the [USU Disability Resource Center](#) as soon as possible.

Missed Exams

Students may not make up missed exams, except for three cases:

1. Participation in a university-sponsored event. In this case, a student should provide documentation and schedule a make up date at least a week in advance of the original exam administration.

2. Documented medical emergency. In this case, a student should provide documentation within two business days of expiration and schedule a make up date within three business days of the original administration or the expiration of the documented excuse if that date is later.
3. Any reason with a -20% grade penalty. This provision needs to be invoked in person or by email by 4:00 PM on exam day. The student invoking this provision should provide a list of available times to make up the exam the following business day, with a completion time of no later than 4:00 PM that day.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that any applicable procedures are followed.

Late short paper assignments

All written assignments will be marked down 1% for each hour that they are late.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is subject to change with notice.

Course Schedule

All readings and other assignments will be posted on [USU Canvas](#).

The course will cover the following topics:

- Primer on ethnicity, nationalism, and identity-based politics
 - What is ethnicity?
 - What is nationalism?
 - Political institutions and identity. What is identity-based politics?
- Types of conflict commonly characterized as “ethnic”, “nationalist” or identity-based. Is ethnicity a cause of political conflict?
 - Rationalist explanations for violence
 - Macro and micro level economic determinants of violence
 - The role of political elites
 - Protests and riots
 - Strategies of terrorism
 - Civil war and patterns of civil war. Ethnic defection in civil war
 - Genocide and mass killings
- Conflict resolution
 - Ending wars: partition, decentralization, and civil society solutions
 - Ending and preventing violence: electoral design in divided societies
 - Justice after war
- Case studies

- Israel-Palestine
- Northern Ireland
- Rwanda
- Yugoslavia
- Syria
- Iraq
- Afghanistan
- South Africa
- Russia/Ukraine